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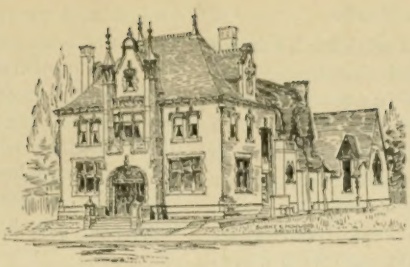
TORONTO BIBLE TRAINING SCHOOL



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OUR DESIGN.—The great design of the School is the training of consecrated men and women for Christian service at home and abroad.

CONTRIBUTIONS.—Any friends desiring to have fellowship in the work may send their contributions to the Treasurer, J. N. Shenstone, Esq., 40 Walmer Road, Toronto, or to any officer of the School.

The New Session.

The Tenth Session of the Bible Training School has opened with a larger attendance of students than usual. The enrolment in the Day Classes up to November 20th is 46, the number at the corresponding date last year having been 36. In the Evening Classes the number is 187, as against 158 on November 21st, 1902. We are thankful for the increase in numbers, and for the spirit of deep interest and devotion to study manifested by the classes generally. But more than this, we desire for all our students not only a thorough acquaintance with the Word of God, but also an increasing heart knowledge of its precious vital truths.

A Present Need.

Having been favored with such a large number of earnest and promising students, we need also an increased income to meet the necessary expenditure. Since the opening of the School, several friends who aided us at first with their regular donations for the support of the work, have been called to rest from their labors. Others who have met with financial losses, are not able to continue the support they once cheerfully gave. In these circumstances we are asking the Lord to raise up additional friends and helpers. For over nine years our needs have all been graciously supplied, and we believe that He who has helped us in the past will continue to provide. At a recent meeting of the Board, it was suggested that the present necessities of the School should be made known; and the hope was expressed that quite a number of former students and others, who know the value of the School, would seek to interest Christian friends in its behalf. Above all let there be united waiting on God to meet our present necessities.

Wise and Weighty Words.

On November 13th, the students were favored with a visit from Rev. Dr. E. Y. Mullins, President of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary at Louisville, Ky., who addressed them in brief, but eminently appropriate terms. He stated that all pastors, missionaries, Sunday School teachers, and other Christian workers should specially seek three things: to know themselves, to know the Bible, and to know the people among whom they labor. They must know themselves, so that they would not on the one hand over-estimate their gifts, and thus seek positions for which they were not qualified; or on the other hand, under-estimate their abilities, and so turn away from opportunities of useful service presented to them. They must know God's Word, not only that they may be able to make its sacred truths known to others; but they should also search the Scriptures daily, with prayer and meditation, for a blessing on their own spiritual life. They must know the people to whom they minister, so that they can understand sympathetically their needs, and longings, and weaknesses, and thus be better qualified for rendering service to the ignorant and them that are out of the way. These wise and weighty words of Dr. Mullins will not soon be forgotten by those who heard them, and we trust that all who read about them will lay them deeply to heart.

Special Lectures.

The Day Classes have been favored with two courses of special lectures since the beginning of the session. The first of these was given by Mr. H. W. Frost, of the China Inland Mission, on "The Holy Spirit," and was found to be not only instructive, but very helpful in the culture of the spiritual life. The second course has just been completed by Rev. Dr. McTavish, his subject being "The Life of the Apostle Paul in connection with his Epistles." This was presented with the usual clearness and point of the lecturer. The students will have a written examination on this course before the Christmas holidays.

The lecturer for the second half of the session will be Rev. W. H. Hincks, LL.B., of Trinity Methodist Church, whose subject will be "Evangelistic Work."

Medical Lectures.

The medical lectures for the session were commenced in October. Dr. G. D. Porter is conducting a course of study in Physiology and Anatomy, and Dr. E. Fraser Bowie in Materia Medica and Therapeutics, that is, the nature of drugs and their employment in the cure of disease. Both classes are well attended, and the instruction is followed with much interest and profit. It cannot fail to be of great value to all who expect to engage in missionary service.

Class in Vocal Music.

Shortly after the beginning of the session, a strong desire was expressed by the students for some instruction in vocal music. Arrangements were accordingly made by President Harris with Mr. A. T. Cringan, a well-known music teacher of the city, to conduct a class once a week in the theory and practice of

singing. The students greatly enjoy their weekly drill and instruction, and Mr. Cringan expects good results from the class. The gift of sacred song is a real handmaid and help in Christian service.

Bible Study Conference.

At the request of the Young People's Union of Guelph, a Bible Study Conference was held in that city under the auspices of the Bible Training School, from October 28th to 30th. The meetings were held in different places of worship, the Ministerial Union giving its co-operation. On the first day Dr. Harris lectured on the Book of Exodus and the Gospel by John ; on the second day, Rev. A. B. Winchester spoke on the Gospel by Matthew and the Book of Revelation ; and on the third day of the Conference, Dr. Stewart took as his subjects, "Four New Testament Mysteries," and "Methods of Bible Study." The meetings, which were well attended, were held on the afternoon and evening of each day. The Secretary of the Union has written to say that "the addresses were appreciated very highly, and that the meetings did a great deal of good to all who attended them." Our friend, Mr. R. M. Hobson, gave his council and assistance to the Young People in making the necessary arrangements.

From Northern Nigeria.

In an interesting letter written by our former student, Mr. W. D. Spinks, and dated Patagi, September 23rd, we have good news from the missionary party of eight, who left Toronto last May, to labor in connection with the Africa Industrial Mission. Most of them had suffered from the fever prevalent in the climate, and Messrs. Smedley and Waddell had been seriously ill. But by the blessing of God, in answer to prayer, they had been completely restored to health ; and all were praising God for His goodness, and rejoicing that they were safely sheltered under the protecting care of the Lord. Mr. Spinks tells of the awful spiritual destitution that prevails in dark Soudan, some towns of 70,000 inhabitants not having even one gospel preacher to tell them of the only Saviour. He expresses the earnest hope that God will raise up a mighty army of consecrated workers, who will count not their lives dear unto themselves, but will come forward in Jesus' Name, to spread the Gospel at any cost. Then, after telling of their encouraging Sunday services at Patagi, Mr. Spinks adds : "I trust that all in the School are well, and that you have an increased number in attendance this session. May God lead some of them to this dark centre of the earth."

Student Volunteers.

The Student Volunteers in the School have chosen Mr. E. C. Austin as President, and Miss Martha Stewart as Secretary for the present session. The leader of the study class is Miss Barbara Mould. A special missionary prayer-meeting is held every Thursday morning, and the study class on Tuesday afternoon. Both meetings are well attended.

Words of Appreciation.

We continue to be cheered with kind and encouraging words sent by friends in forwarding their gifts for the support of the School. One has recently written as follows :

"It is with pleasure that I send our contribution to the Bible Training School. There is cause for much thankfulness that with God's blessing the School has so greatly prospered."

Another who has had fellowship with us in the work from the beginning says :

"I rejoice to know that the Toronto Bible Training School has been so blessed in the past, and trust that its usefulness may be greatly extended. The Y.M.C.A. Provincial Committee appreciate very much the assistance you have given to young men who are seeking preparation for association work."

Students' Public Meeting.

The programme of the first Students' Public Meeting for the session, appointed for Monday, November 30th, is as follows : "Christian Assurance," Mr. John A. Henderson ; "The Name of Jesus," Miss Martha Stewart ; "My Call to Mission Work," Mr. Floyd Appleton ; "Behold the Man," Miss Ethel M. Wilkins ; "A Tale that is Told," Mr. A. G. C. Simpson.

Notes.

THIS session there are ten different evangelical denominations represented in the Bible Training School.

THE number of volumes in the Library is now 1,086. There is room for many more on our shelves.

AFTER the Christmas vacation, the work of the classes will be resumed on Tuesday, January 5th, 1904.

THE Rev. C. E. Burrell, one of our first graduates, has removed from Orangeville, and settled as pastor in Forest, Ont.

THREE of the former Evening Class students, Miss B. Mould, Mr. A. E. Bernhardt, and Mr. A. S. Bennett, have become members of the Day Classes.

A LETTER has come from a young pastor in far distant Australia, asking for information about the School, and expressing his strong desire to take a course of Bible study with us.

THE labors of Mr. J. K. McCormick were so much blessed during the summer months that he has been persuaded to remain for some time longer at Sebright, Ont. He expects, however, to return to the Training School, pass the final examination, and graduate with the class of 1904.

IT is expected that the written examinations for the term will be held from Monday, December 14th, to Saturday, December 19th inclusive. The examination of the Evening Classes will take place on Tuesday, December 15th, and Thursday, December 17th.

THE officers of the School very cheerfully co-operated in the successful Sunday School Institute held last month in Wycliffe Convocation Hall. An excellent programme was provided, which many pastors, theological students, and Sunday School workers found to be of much practical value.

MR. THOS. A. RODGER, a former Secretary of the School, and recently Secretary of the Y.M.C.A., Hamilton, has received an appointment as General Evangelist of the Presbyterian Church in Manitoba and the North-West Provinces. In this work, for which he is specially qualified, we trust that our friend will have abundant blessing.

REV. J. W. SALTON has entered on pastoral work in Sparta, Ont.

OUR President, Dr. Harris, continues to do a good deal of work as Bible teacher outside the walls of the Training School. He has been busy giving lectures at Y. M. C. A. Conventions and Sunday School Associations; and is now conducting for a time the large Friday Evening Bible Class connected with Cooke's Church in this city.

WE are pleased to hear that Miss Roxie Wood and Miss Jane B. James, two of our graduates who went to China last year, have made such progress in the language that they have been assigned to mission stations. They are both entering on their important work in good heart and hope; and we trust that they will be greatly blessed in all their service for Christ.

MUCH sympathy has been expressed for one of the students, Miss Jean C. Simpson, of Hamilton, who enrolled with us for the first time this session. One morning at the classes she received a telegram, informing her of the very sudden death of her mother. All united in special prayer that she and the bereaved ones might be graciously sustained and comforted. As Miss Simpson is needed to take her mother's place in the home, she cannot, for some time at least, continue her studies in the School.

Receipts for General Fund.

The following amounts have been received from May 1st to Nov. 19th, 1903:

No. 1	$10 00	No. 26	15 00
" 2	20 00	" 27	200 00
" 3	5 00	" 28	10 00
" 4	15 00	" 29	2 00
" 5	2 00	" 30	5 00
" 6	25 00	" 31	5 00
" 7	50 00	" 32	1 00
" 8	100 00	" 33	10 00
" 9	15 00	" 34	10 00
" 10	25 00	" 35	5 00
" 11	5 00	" 36	5 00
" 12	10 00	" 37	2 00
" 13	5 00	" 38	5 00
" 14	2 00	" 39	5 00
" 15	50	" 40	5 00
" 16	25 00	" 41	2 00
" 17	5 10	" 42	2 00
" 18	15 00	" 43	5 00
" 19	100 00	" 44	50 00
" 20	100 00	" 45	300 00
" 21	25 00	" 46	50 00
" 22	1 00	" 47	1 00
" 23	1 00	" 48	25 00
" 24	2 00	" 49	5 00
" 25	25 00	" 50	20 00
		Total	$1,333 60

JOSEPH N. SHUNSTONE, Treas.